

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

The Broadcast Flag discriminates against the community that wants to view free community-based "digital bits". That carries through to my wishing to copy and send my relatives video clips of my news broadcast "fifteen seconds of fame". Intolerable.

There is no consideration given to those of us who are not fortunate enough to just go out and buy new equipment. Why wouldn't there be a transition period provided the public?

Would the digital flag interfere with consumers ability to send DTV content across networks, such as home digital networks connecting digital set top boxes, digital recorders, digital servers and digital display devices? "Digital bits" are only reserved for quality treatment under the Broadcast Flag. Community-based transmissions are severely degraded. Bad law, bad policy, and shameful representation on the part of the FCC, if continued failure to consider the public's interest as utmost importance.

Would the broadcast flag requirement limit consumers ability to use their existing electronic equipment (equipment not built to look for the flag) or make it difficult to use older components with new equipment that is compliant with the broadcast flag standard?

The proponents are lying, and should be required to demonstrate their claims. The opponents are eagerly awaiting the opportunity to demonstrate the fallacy of such claims. The FCC is encouraged to have such a demonstration provided. If not, then the question becomes one of "Why not?"

Would a broadcast flag requirement limit the development of future equipment providing consumers with new options?

The Broadcast Flag eliminates creativity and innovation through raising the cost of entry in the industry far beyond what is otherwise available to the general public. Today, for every community, the opportunity to build and operate community-based recording studios is possible and affordable. Tomorrow, the cost is expected to be lower. In the face of such technological advancement, why would anyone entertain any regulation or legislation intended to lock out those who would create and innovate?

What will be the cost impact, if any, that a broadcast flag requirement would have on consumer electronics equipment?

Cost impact is seen first and foremost in the removal of community-based transmissions. This cost is amplified by the removal of small businesses that otherwise might be able to compete, but for the licensing fees imposed by a select few.

Again, bad law, bad policy, and obvious intention to ignore what is best for the general public in favor of a special interest group bent on preserving control of old, obsolete business models.

Other Comments:

The FCC is treading on sensitive issues with regard to privacy, fair use, and economic issues. Many would agree that our country's economy is built on small business. When you remove small businesses in the equation, our country will lose everything it has stood for. Special interests should

not win out over the interests served in the name of Public Interest.

Fair Use, small business competition, and privacy issues should be the driving force for the FCC work. Yesterday, there was an economic theory based on efficiency and productivity through fewer doors. In the Digital Age, that theory is blown out of the water. The FCC needs to catch up, and lead the U.S. into the Digital Age, not try to satisfy the obsolete thinking of those who would want to preserve the Information Age as it was described in 1996, by Bruce Lehman, in the Clinton White Paper.